

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 3, 2005

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-267-Reedsport-Fairview) **Project #: V-E-06/01**

to: Benjamin Tilley
Natural resource specialist – TFE/ALVEY

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the 115 kV Reedsport-Fairview #1 (towers 1/7 to 39/4), Tahkenitch-Reedsport #1 (towers 1/1 to 4/2), and Tahkenitch-Gardiner #1 (towers 1/1 to 2/3) transmission line corridors.

Location: The project is located in Coos and Douglas County, Oregon in the BPA Eugene Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted tall growing and noxious vegetation, danger trees, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment.

Analysis: A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for project corridor in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The subject corridor traverses residential, rural, agricultural, industrial forest, state, city, county (Coos County), and Federal (BLM) lands.

Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklists. No herbicides will be used within 35 ft. of streams' edge. Elsewhere, only practically non-toxic (to aquatic) formulations of Garlon 3 (Triclopyr TEA) will be used. Only manual selective cutting of undesirable vegetation will take place within the buffer if needed; no machinery will be in these areas. Trees near stream's edge will be topped, if necessary, to ensure negligible loss of stream shading. Brush near the stream's edge will only be cut, if necessary, in a manner to ensure negligible loss of stream shading.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on July 14, 2005 identifying threatened and endangered species potentially occurring in the project area. In addition a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species, designated critical habitat, and Essential Fish Habitat for the project.

Cultural Resources: There are no known cultural or archaeological resource sites in the project area. The project does not involve any ground disturbing activities. In the event that a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped and the BPA Environmental Specialist will be contacted.

Re-Vegetation: Native species will be used as much as possible for re-vegetation. Non-invasive non-natives may be used to establish vegetation quickly in order to avoid establishment of non-desirable species.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be inspected after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Aaron Shurtliff

Aaron Shurtliff
Physical Scientist

CONCUR: /s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 9-26-2005

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklist
Effects Determination